

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 UDORN 00159 121345Z

53

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPT-02 EB-11 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EUR-25 DODE-00 /084 W

----- 108015

R 120931Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL UDORN

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 110

AGKMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VCKYO

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

FAA, GUAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, ETRN, TH

SUBJECT: FRANKLIN BAILEY, PILOT FOR INTERNATIONAL AIR LIMITED

1. ON DECEMBER 7, RTAF PERSONNEL FORCED DOWN BY GUNFIRE A C-47 PLANE FLYING OVER UDORN FROM PHNOM PENH TO VIENTIANE. THE THAIS CLAIM THE CREW HAD NOT FILED A FLIGHT PLAN. THE PLANE LANDED AT UDORN RTAFB.

2. THE AIRCRAFT HAS AMERICAN MARKINGS, (NUMBER N 16896) AND IS REPORTEDLY PROPERTY OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LIMITED, A FIRM OWNED BY STANLEY BOOKER, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN INVOLVED IN BURMESE DISSIDENT LEAFLET DROP APRIL 7, 1972, AND IN OTHER UNSAVORY ACTIVITIES, ACCORDING TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE.

3. FOUR PASSENGERS EMERGED FROM THE AIRCRAFT, JOHN E. MENTA, ALLEGEDLY A FRENCH CITIZEN, WHOSE CARD IDENTIFIES HIM AS MANAGER  
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OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LIMITED FOR CAMBODIA, TWO LAO MECHANICS, AND PILOTING THE AIRCRAFT WAS HOMER FRANKLIN BAILEY, AMERICAN CITIZEN.

4. BAILEY HOLDS PPT #K1214659 ISSUED JULY 29, 1969 AT SAN FRANCISCO.

5. THOUGH THE GROUP WAS ORGINALLY JAILED BY THE THAI AIR POLICE, BY DECEMBER 8 THE WERE RELEASED IN THE CUSTODY OF THE CONSULATE. THE FOUR ARE STAYING AT THE UDORN HOTEL.

6. BAILEY HAS ACTED AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP. SINCE DECEMBER 7 HE HAS SENT MESSAGES OFF TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LIMITED IN PHNOM PENH AND TO THE FIRM'S AGENT IN VIENTIANE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FLIGHT PLAN.

7. BAILEY SAYS THAT THOUGH A FLIGHT PLAN MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FILED, HE HAS ALL THE PAPERS SHOWING THAT THEY DID ALL THINGS REQUIRED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT BY THE CAMBODIAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION.

8. IN THE MEANTIME, THE THAI BASE COMMANDER AT UDORN RTAFB, LT. COL. PRACHUM CHAISIRI, HAS TAKEN NO KNOWN FURTHER ACTION

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HE SAYS HE MUST AWAIT WORD FROM HIS HIGHER HEADQUARTERS AS TO HOW THIS MATTER IS TO BE RESOLVED.

9. MEANWHILE H. FRANKLIN BAILEY AND COMPANY ARE HOLED UP AT THE UDORN HOTEL.

10. REQUEST GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER ANY FURTHER CONSULATE ACTION IS APPROPRIATE. ALSO REQUEST FROM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON STANLEY BOOKER AND INTERNATIONAL AIR LIMITED. BROH-KAHN. GDS.

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